

Scott's Thoughts

March 16, 2025



“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7, ESV)

There are a number of definitions for the word peace and this is one definition I found: “Mental or spiritual condition marked by freedom from upsetting or oppressive thoughts or emotions.” Isn’t that what we all want—freedom from “upsetting or oppressive thoughts or emotions?”

Sometimes we want peace from personal irritations. I have been complaining about the time change; it seems to take longer for me to adjust each time it happens, and my body takes longer to adapt to the one-hour change. It has disrupted my sleep pattern and taken a big chunk of my personal peace and is a personal irritation.

What will it take to gain peace in our lives? My first thought was to make the whole world agree with me. Well, that is not going to happen because the world’s population has never heard of me. If I have a hard time keeping up with myself, how could I expect the world to conform? Who is this guy that changes his thoughts way too often? I do have a whole list of things that I’m open to hearing someone’s thoughts on.

Peace between nations is difficult and I’m not claiming there is any equality between my personal peace and the peace that my Ukrainian brethren are missing. Lately, there has been a lot of talk about peace. In fact, discussions should be underway this week between Russia and Ukraine. It is such a shame

that events in these two countries have led to millions of people being killed or displaced by this war. I don’t believe I have met even one Ukrainian who wishes for this war to continue another day. I have been praying for peace in Ukraine for three years now. The question is: peace at what cost?

The names are different, but Israel and Hamas, or any number of Arab factions, seem to be constantly at war. The thing about war is you can have an aggressor and a defender, or just two aggressors. It makes little difference. The people in charge make decisions, and the people of that country pay the price. They pay in lost homes, lost places of worship, lost fellowship with others who are a part of God’s church, lost wages, lost lives, and the list goes on and on. Every day they wonder: will this be the day that one of the missiles strikes the place where I’m staying? Will a bomb destroy my home that I have worked a lifetime for?

The greatest peace on earth stems not from any man, or anything men can do, but from Jesus Christ. It doesn’t matter what happens to us from day to day as long as Christ has taken away our sins and left us with an existence in Heaven in the presence of God. Salvation is real peace. We’ll still have hills to climb and disappointments to deal with, but they are just bumps on the highway to Heaven.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott